Decontrolling the prices of Category drugs

3005. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 77 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that neither the Cabinet nor the Drug Policy 1986 authorised Kelkar Committee to make recommendations on drugs needed for National Health Programmes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Kelkar Committee made recommendations for price decontrol of Category-I drugs which were identified by Ministry of Health;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this the prices of medicines have gone up from 100 per cent to 800 per cent;

(d) whether his Ministry is aware of such steep increases; and

(e) if so, what are the names of medicines where prices have gone up after DPCO, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) As already stated in reply to Starred Question 77 referred to in the question, as per the report of the Committee, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare desired the Kelkar Committee to hear the representations regarding some Category I drugs also. The said Committee therefore reviewed the representations for the drugs in both the Schedules under DPCO, 1987.

(c) to (e) Only one drug namely Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) which was previously in Category I has been exempted from price control under DPCO, 1987. To the extent information is available prices of this drug, have not gone up to that extent consequent to exemption from price control.

Price Control/Deletion of Drugs recommended by Kelkar Committee

3006. SHRI CHITA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 607 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1989 and state:

(a) what are the names of drugs recommended for deletion by Kelkar Committee in the supplementary report;

(b) whether Kelkar Committee recommended price control of any drug in its supplementary report; and

(c) if so, the names of those drugs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (c) Some of the recommendations contained in the Supplementary report of Kelkar Committe are yet to be considered.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Prices of Betamethasone Formulations

3007. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2068 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the price of Betamethasone and its formulations sold under the brand name of Betnovate as now fixed by the Government;

(b) what was the price fixed under DPCO, 1979, in 1981 and what is the price at which the company is presently selling the formulations based on Betamethasone;

(c) whether his Ministry has worked out the amount over-charged; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The required details to the extent available are given in the attached statement. (*See* below) The price of formulations concerned was not fixed under DPCO, 1979, due to stay granted by the Delhi High Court. M/s. Glindia Limited had therefore been charging their own price.

(c) and (d) Action is already on to work out the amount overcharged by the Company.